



**For Immediate Release  
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**CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS (CCC) DAY CELEBRATION  
HELD AT STATE HOUSE**

BOSTON—Massachusetts celebrated Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Day today with a ceremony and reception at the State House. A speaking program featured CCC alumni Francis Derwin and Philip Gouzie, and Senator Michael W. Morrissey.

“I am pleased to join with the members of the Conservation Corps in celebrating their 73<sup>rd</sup> anniversary and paying tribute to the important contributions made over the years by its 100,000 members,” said Senator Morrissey. “The Corps, made of civilian members, were invaluable in the Commonwealth’s time of need building roads, bridges and towers and preserving our nation.”

CCC Day was created in 2002 to honor the legacy of the CCC in Massachusetts. Part of the New Deal, the CCC was one of the most esteemed public works projects of the day. From 1933 to 1942, CCC members helped build infrastructure in the nation’s conservation lands, much of which is still in use today.

“I appreciate Senator Morrissey’s and the DCR CCC Committee’s support in keeping the name of the Corps alive,” said Mr. Derwin. “After all, that’s why we’re here today.”

This year’s CCC Day event focused on the education program offered by the CCC. On-the-job training provided CCC members with instruction in heavy machinery operation, silviculture, wildlife management, landscaping, and other skills necessary for their conservation work. After hours, the men were offered optional classes in a wide range of subjects including motor repair, basic literacy and cooking. For numerous CCC members, this was the only educational program available to them at the time.

Eight CCC alumni were in attendance: Frank Evans of Marlboro, Donal Ball and Al Sarcione of Westfield, Hubert D’Ambrosio of Feeding Hills (President, Chapter 158, Pioneer Valley CCC Alumni), Americo Cruz of Chicopee, Francis Derwin of Quincy (Northeast Regional Director, National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni), Ed DeSantis of Canton, and Philip Gouzie of South Portland, Maine (First Vice-President, National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni), along with their friends and family members.

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